

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication system for exchanging signals, comprising:
a plurality of terminals configured to communicate through the exchange of the signals,
each of the plurality of terminals includes a transmitter configured to transmit the signals; and
a hub configured to communicate with the plurality of terminals, the hub transmitting
control signals to one of the plurality of terminals to modify operation of the one terminal
2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the hub transmits the control signals to the
one terminal to disable the transmitter of the one terminal, the disabled transmitter being rendered
inoperable for transmission of the signals until subsequent control signals are received to enable
the transmitter.
3. The system according to claim 1, wherein each of the terminals are configured to
transmit a prescribed test pattern in response to the control signals from the hub
4. The system according to claim 3, wherein the test pattern is transmitted over a
predetermined frequency.
5. The system according to claim 4, wherein the predetermined frequency is specified by
the hub.
6. The system according to claim 1, wherein the hub is connected to a packet switched
network.
7. The system according to claim 6, wherein the packet switched network is an Internet
Protocol (IP) network.
8. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a satellite communicating with the hub and the plurality of terminals to provide two-way
communication.

9. A transceiver apparatus for exchanging signals over a communication network that includes a hub, the apparatus comprising:

a transmitting unit configured to transmit signals to a remote terminal of the communication network; and

a receiving unit configured to receive control signals from the hub, wherein the control signals modify operation of the transmitting unit.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the received control signals disable the transmitting unit, the disabled transmitting unit being rendered inoperable for transmission of the signals until subsequent control signals are received by the receiving unit to enable the transmitting unit.

11. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the transmitting unit is configured to transmit a prescribed test pattern in response to the control signals from the hub

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the test pattern is transmitted over a predetermined frequency.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the predetermined frequency is specified by the hub.

14. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the hub is connected to a packet switched network.

15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the packet switched network is an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

16. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the communications network includes a satellite that communicates with the hub to provide two-way communication

17. A method for exchanging signals in a communication system having a hub, the method comprising:

receiving control signals from the hub;

selectively modifying operation of a transmitting unit of a terminal in response to the control signals.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the selectively modifying step comprises:

disabling the transmitting unit of the terminal;

receiving a subsequent control signal from the hub; and

enabling the transmitting unit in response to the subsequent control signal.

19. The method according to claim 17, further comprising:

transmitting a prescribed test pattern in response to the received control signals from the hub.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the test pattern in the transmitting step is transmitted over a predetermined frequency.

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein the predetermined frequency is specified by the hub.

22. The method according to claim 17, wherein the hub is connected to a packet switched network.

23. The method according to claim 22, wherein the packet switched network is an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

24. The method according to claim 17, further comprising:

receiving signals from a satellite, the satellite communicating with the hub to provide two-way communication.

25. A communication system for exchanging signals, comprising:
means for receiving control signals from the hub; and
means for selectively modifying operation of a transmitting unit of a terminal in response to the control signals.

26. The system according to claim 25, wherein the means for selectively modifying comprises:

means for disabling the transmitting unit of the terminal;
means for receiving a subsequent control signal from the hub, and
means for enabling the transmitting unit in response to the subsequent control signal.

27. The system according to claim 25, further comprising:
means for transmitting a prescribed test pattern in response to the received control signals from the hub.

28. The system according to claim 27, wherein the test pattern is transmitted over a predetermined frequency.

29. The system according to claim 28, wherein the predetermined frequency is specified by the hub.

30. The system according to claim 25, wherein the hub is connected to a packet switched network.

31. The system according to claim 30, wherein the packet switched network is an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

32. The system according to claim 25, wherein the receiving means receives signals from a satellite, the satellite communicating with the hub to provide two-way communication.

33. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for exchanging signals in a communication system having a hub, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of

receiving control signals from the hub; and

selectively modifying operation of a transmitting unit of a terminal in response to the control signals.

34. The computer readable-medium according to claim 33, wherein the selectively modifying step comprises:

disabling the transmitting unit of the terminal;

receiving a subsequent control signal from the hub; and

enabling the transmitting unit in response to the subsequent control signal.

35. The computer readable-medium according to claim 33, wherein the one or more processors further perform the step of:

transmitting a prescribed test pattern in response to the received control signals from the hub.

36. The computer readable-medium according to claim 35, wherein the test pattern in the transmitting step is transmitted over a predetermined frequency

37. The computer readable-medium according to claim 36, wherein the predetermined frequency is specified by the hub.

38. The computer readable-medium according to claim 33, wherein the hub is connected to a packet switched network.

39. The computer readable-medium according to claim 38, wherein the packet switched network is an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

40. The computer readable-medium according to claim 33, wherein the one or more processors further perform the step of:

receiving signals from a satellite, the satellite communicating with the hub to provide two-way communication.